

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 6, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 6, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 13, 16-18, 28, 33, and 41 are rejected, claims 14, 15, 32, 34, 35, and 43 are objected to by the Examiner but would be allowable if redrafted in independent form, and claims 1, 5-12, 24-27, 36-40, 42, and 44-49 are allowed.

Claims 1, 6-18, 24-28, and 32-49 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 41-43 have been amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 13, 16-18, 28, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Reed* (US 4,532,987). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. *Reed* does not teach, suggest, or disclose a seal assembly, wherein a length of one of the adapters is substantially greater than a combined length of a rest of the seal assembly, as recited in claim 13. The Examiner cites members G, D, and 58 of *Reed* as the end adapters and the center adapter, respectively, and member 106 (member 106 is actually the upper surface of G) as the adapter having a length substantially greater than a combined length of the rest of the seal assembly. Members G and D are not the end adapters, members 54 and 56 are. *Reed* explains as follows:

The packing E is defined by an upper group 50 of high temperature resistant chevron packing rings and lower group 52 of the same type of packing rings. Upper, lower and intermediately disposed steel adapter rings 54, 56 and 58 are in abutting contact with the groups of upper and lower packing rings 50 and 52. Upper and lower steel pressure rings 60 and 62 are in abutting contact with upper and lower resilient packing rings 64 and 66 of triangular transverse cross section, with the packing rings 64 and 66 in contact with adapter rings 54 and 56, as shown in FIG. 7.

(col., 5, lines 40-50, emphasis added). Member D is a piston packing ring (col. 5, lines 28-39) and member G is an external force transmitting shell (col. 6, lines 21-54). None

of members 54, 56, and 58 have a length which is substantially greater than a length of the rest of packing E. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Cochran* (US 3,151,681). *Cochran* does not teach, suggest, or disclose a seal assembly comprising an adapter having an entire length that is substantially greater than an entire length of the sleeve flow port, as recited in amended claim 41. The length of *Cochran*'s piston 30 is about the same as the main port 36. Therefore, claim 41 is patentable over *Cochran*.

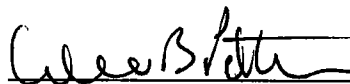
Claim Objections

Claims 14, 15, 32, 34, 35, and 43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants believe the objection is now moot as claim 13 is now allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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